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beautiful Aria, "Dalla sua pace," was artistic and full of expression. His other selections were equally well rendered, and the warm applause which he received was fully deserved.

Mr. Alfred H. Pease's very clever and brilliant arrangement of Godfréy's "Mabel Waltz," was played with great dash and effect by the composer and Mr. S. B. Mills, who volunteered his valuable services on this occasion, and added much to the interest of the programme. Mr. Pease in his recent public performances, has given evidence of steady and marked improvement, not only in his touch, but in the certainty of his execution. He possesses great facility and needs only the steadiness which cool nerves will give him, to achieve all that his ambition aims at in the future.

Messrs. Severini and Pease will give one more of their delightful concerts in aid of the Ladies' Southern Relief Fund.

ITALIAN OPERA.

This fashionable entertainment is now in full operation at the new Academy of Music, in Fourteenth street. The largest and most brilliant audience of the season was attracted on Wednesday evening, to witness the performance of "Faust," presented by the same cast, with the exception of Marra for Bellini, as at the Winter Garden recently. As no novelty has been produced as yet, but on the contrary, only such works as were given in December, special notice is not demanded. When the novelties announced as forthcoming make their appearance, we shall favor our readers with the results of our observations.

IS IT A JOKE? IF NOT, WHAT IS IT?

We quote the following exquisite extract from a weekly contemporary. We are pretty good at reading riddles, and we think we can see the point of a jest as quickly as the next man, but this extract puzzles us. If it is a jest, it is a sorry one, for it is aimed against one whose misfortunes would, in any other quarter, have commanded sympathy rather than ridicule. If it was intended for a criticism, it is contemptible as a poor specimen of slangy ribaldry. We present the thing in all its original nastiness:

(From the Weekly Review.)

SIG. LOTTI'S FAREWELL CONCERT.—To part with anybody, unless it is a troublesome creditor, is a very sad affair. Perhaps it was owing to this fact that the farewell concert of Signor Lotti was attended but by very few. There were scarcely four hundred people in Steinway's large hall. The friends of the German-Italian tenor evidently avoided a scene of sorrow and sadness. It was not the tax imposed upon them of paying so much for admission. They dreaded tears, and tears they would have shed, if they once more had lis-

tened to the enchanting voice of the tenor. So they abstained, and poor Lotti had to pay dearly for his whistling. And yet there were temptations enough. There were his friends of the Arion, who sang as well as they can sing; there was Mdle. Naddi, the French prima donna, who gives us a shake whenever we do not wait it; there was also the great American pianist, Mr. J. N. Pattison, who can play everything in his own way; and last, there was Signor or Herr Lotti himself, who certainly must belong to the Bourbon family, for he has neither learnt nor forgotten anything. Shall we speak of the orchestra, to which was allotted the enormous task of performing the Overtures to "Oberon," and "Merry Wives of Windsor," and that everlasting March from "Tannhauser?" It certainly did its duty, considering that it was led by men like Anschutz and Bergmann. There is no mistake about it, this affair was a terrible success.

DEATH OF DR. EDWARD RUGGLES.—There is no name in all the list of Art that has so endeared itself to our homes as that which heads this article. Dr. Ruggles is known over the length and breadth of the land by his exquisite cabinet pictures, familiarly called "Ruggles Gems." Few artistic albums, or walls of collectors, but hold one or more of these trifles, dashed off in a moment, but show in touch, color and effect the true artist, and the mark of genius.

Dr. Ruggles died at his residence in Brooklyn, on Sunday morning last, aged 50. He was a native of Massachusetts, and after finishing his medical studies in Europe, and traveling extensively in the East, he entered upon the practice of his profession in Brooklyn, blending it with his study of Art, the latter, during the past few years, filling almost his whole time in consequence of the pressing demand made upon him for the beautiful little pictures that grew so rapidly under his hand.

Dr. Ruggles is also known for marked contributions to the press on art. He had an instinctive perception of genius, and was unsparing upon all the shams of art, was a just critic and modest in his appreciation of his own works, showing, as the true artist always shows, a doubt as to the favorable opinion with which the public stamped his efforts.

His works, though without pretence, will always be cherished as jewels, and the artist remembered as a kind friend, a good father and husband, a useful citizen and a thorough gentleman.

MR. OSCAR PFEIFFER'S FIRST GRAND CONCERT.—Mr. Oscar Pfeiffer will give his first grand Concert at Irving Hall this evening (Saturday), when he will introduce several of his own compositions, and will also play one of Liszt's most brilliant Fantasies. Mr. Pfeiffer has an excellent European reputation, not only as a Pianist, but as a writer for the piano. His compositions exhibit imagination, delicacy and refinement, and also ingenuity and brilliance. He has a great grasp of the instru-

ment and has much rapidity of manipulation, and an amplitude of power. He has also fine expression in the *cantabile* passages.

Mme. Guiditta Altieri, who has never yet appeared in the concert-room, will debut on this occasion. Her reputation, both in Europe and South America, stands high, and we have no doubt that she will meet with a decisive success. The other artists assisting Mr. Pfeiffer are Mr. Ignatz Pollack and Mr. Rudolf Hennig.

MR. L. P. WHEAT'S MATINEE.—The first Matinee given by this young and rising pianist, will take place at Wallack's Theatre, this, Saturday afternoon, at 1 o'clock. He will be assisted by that Queen of Warblers, Madame Parepa-Rosa, by her husband Carl Rosa, by Mr. W. J. Hill, Signor Fortuna, Herr R. Hennig and Mr. William Dressler. Mr. Wheat is an earnest student, and gives evidence of a fine order of talent, and we hope to see this, his first public effort, liberally encouraged. Mme. Parepa will sing a new song composed expressly for her by Mr. Wheat, who will besides, play some of his own compositions.

GRAND CONCERT AT STEINWAY HALL TONIGHT.—There will be grand concert at Steinway Hall this evening (Saturday) for the benefit of the Attaches of Irving and Steinway Hall. The bill upon the occasion presents most brilliant attraction, as all the following eminent artists will appear: Madame Parepa-Rosa, Mr. W. J. Hill, Signor Strini, Herr Carl Rosa, Mr. Deitz, trumpet, Mr. Letsch, trombone, Mr. Schmidt, horn, Mr. Heindl, flute and zither, Mr. Ebon, flute, Mr. Caulfield, organist, Mr. Colby, accompanist, and Mr. Theo. Thomas, conductor, and his full orchestra.

MADAME VARIAN HOFFMAN delighted our cousins in Connecticut at several concerts during last week. She met with a brilliant reception at all and attracted fine audiences. Her popularity in the Eastern States is remarkable, her concert engagements there averaging one or two per week during the season. She is almost equally popular in the North and West. Madame Varian Hoffman gave a grand concert in Springfield, Mass., last night, assisted by Mr. I. B. Poznanski, Signor Strini and Mr. Edward Hoffman.

Madame Clara M. Brinckerhoff has been engaged to sing at Carl Wolfsohn's last classical matinee in Philadelphia, during the present month.

Signor Antonio Barili, the distinguished composer and teacher, will give a concert at Patterson, N. J., on the 25th inst. On this occasion he will introduce to the public a young lady pupil who has a magnificent voice, and whose abilities are such as to promise a brilliant career for her in the future. Signor Barili will also be assisted by some distin-